

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A security method for controlling access to a function of a digital television receiver, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a software application at the receiver;
said software application being executable in response to an execution command;
 - (b) receiving data at the receiver from a headend, said data defining a condition of the receiver under which access to the receiver function by the software application is permitted;
 - (c) receiving information at the receiver from the headend, said information defining a security policy for said software application which contains a set of permissions for said software application;
 - (d) providing a control signal for requesting access to the receiver function upon execution of said software application;
 - (e) in response to said control signal, determining whether the security policy for the software application contains a permission for the software application to access the receiver function;
 - (f) if said security policy contains said permission:
 - (i) determining whether said condition of the receiver is met by data indicative of a current state of the receiver;
 - (ii) allowing the software application to access the receiver function if the condition is met; and
 - (iii) preventing the software application from accessing the receiver function if the condition is not met; and
 - (g) if said security policy does not contain said permission, preventing the software application from accessing the receiver function;
- wherein said condition of the receiver indicates a conditional access state of the receiver.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 1, wherein said conditional access state comprises at least one of:

- a blackout state;
- a pay-per-view state; and
- an authorization state.

4. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A security method for controlling access to a function of a digital television receiver, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a software application at the receiver;
said software application being executable in response to an execution command;
- (b) receiving data at the receiver from a headend, said data defining a condition of the receiver under which access to the receiver function by the software application is permitted;
- (c) receiving information at the receiver from the headend, said information defining a security policy for said software application which contains a set of permissions for said software application;
- (d) providing a control signal for requesting access to the receiver function upon execution of said software application;
- (e) in response to said control signal, determining whether the security policy for the software application contains a permission for the software application to access the receiver function;
- (f) if said security policy contains said permission:
 - (i) determining whether said condition of the receiver is met by data indicative of a current state of the receiver;
 - (ii) allowing the software application to access the receiver function if the condition is met; and

(iii) preventing the software application from accessing the receiver function if the condition is not met; and

(g) if said security policy does not contain said permission, preventing the software application from accessing the receiver function;

wherein:

said condition of the receiver indicates a user state of the receiver; and

said user state comprises at least one of:

user preferences;

a user password; and

a user identifier.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5 4, wherein:

said condition of the receiver indicates at least one of a time, date, and day.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 8, wherein:

said condition of the receiver is defined, at least in part, by said software application.

8. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1, wherein:~~ A security method for controlling access to a function of a digital television receiver, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a software application at the receiver;

said software application being executable in response to an execution command;

(b) receiving data at the receiver from a headend, said data defining a condition of the receiver under which access to the receiver function by the software application is permitted;

(c) receiving information at the receiver from the headend, said information defining a security policy for said software application which contains a set of permissions for said software application;

(d) providing a control signal for requesting access to the receiver function upon execution of said software application;

(e) in response to said control signal, determining whether the security policy for the software application contains a permission for the software application to access the receiver function;

(f) if said security policy contains said permission:

(i) determining whether said condition of the receiver is met by data indicative of a current state of the receiver;

(ii) allowing the software application to access the receiver function if the condition is met; and

(iii) preventing the software application from accessing the receiver function if the condition is not met; and

(g) if said security policy does not contain said permission, preventing the software application from accessing the receiver function;

wherein said condition of the receiver indicates that one of a channel and a group of channels is tuned by the receiver.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 8, wherein:

the software application is downloadable to the receiver via a broadband television network.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 8, wherein:

the software application comprises a Java code.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 8, wherein:

the execution command is initiated by a user.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein:
the permission is associated with a user of the receiver.
14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein:
the condition of the receiver is embedded in code that defines the permission.
15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein:
the software application is multicast to a receiver population including said receiver.
16. (Cancelled).
17. (Currently amended) A security apparatus for controlling access to a function of a digital television receiver, comprising:
 - (a) means for providing a software application at the receiver;
said software application being executable in response to an execution command;
 - (b) means for receiving data at the receiver from a headend, said data defining a condition of the receiver under which access to the receiver function by the software application is permitted;
 - (c) means for receiving information at the receiver from the headend, said information defining a security policy for said software application which contains a set of permissions for said software application;
 - (d) means for providing a control signal for requesting access to the receiver function upon execution of said software application;
 - (e) means for determining, in response to said control signal, the security policy for the software application contains a permission for the software application to access the receiver function;
 - (f)(i) means for determining whether said condition of the receiver is met by data indicative of a current state of the receiver when said security policy contains said permission;
 - (f)(ii) means for allowing the software application to access the receiver function if the

condition is met, and when said security policy contains said permission;

(f)(iii) means for preventing the software application from accessing the receiver function if the condition is not met, and when said security policy contains said permission; and

(g) means for preventing the software application from accessing the receiver function if said security policy does not contain said permission;

wherein said condition of the receiver indicates that one of a channel and a group of channels is tuned by the receiver.